

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated in the complete listing of pending claims listed below.

1. (Currently Amended) A computerized method of providing billing information, comprising:
 - (a) receiving, over a communications network, a request for ~~at least~~ summary billing information, the request being that is automatically generated by the a billing portal in response to an action by a billable entity associated with the billing portal;
 - (b) requesting, over the communications network and in response to step (a) said receiving the request for the summary billing information, at least the summary billing information from a supplier of the summary billing information;
 - (c) receiving, over the communications network, ~~at least~~ the summary billing information from the supplier of the summary billing information; and
 - (d) transmitting, over the communications network to the billing portal, ~~at least~~ the summary billing information and detailed billing contact information, the detailed billing contact information for allowing to be usable by the billable entity to access detailed billing information from a supplier of the detailed billing information.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further ~~comprising, comprising:~~ prior to ~~step (a)~~ said receiving the request for the summary billing information, providing software to the billing portal;

~~wherein that on the billing portal the software, in response to an action by a~~ the
action by the billable entity associated with the billing portal, exclusively
~~directs the performance of actions of~~ causes the billing portal to transmit ~~a~~ the
request for ~~at least the~~ summary billing information ~~associated with step (a)~~
and to receive ~~at least the~~ summary billing information and the detailed billing
contact information ~~associated with step (d)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein ~~the step of said~~ providing the
software comprises:
~~the steps of transmitting, over the communications computer network, the software to~~
the billing portal to effect delivery and installation of the software.
4. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method of claim 3, wherein the delivery,
~~installation the installation,~~ and operation of the provided software ~~is~~ are automatic
with respect to other human and machine activity at the billing portal.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the software ~~is embodied as~~
comprises one contiguous portion of dynamic HTML.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the software ~~is embodied as~~
comprises one contiguous portion of JavaScript.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the software ~~is~~ when in an
uncompressed form ~~and contiguously embodied in~~ has less than 80 bytes of
information.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the detailed billing contact information comprises a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) that directs access to the detailed billing information located on the Internet-network.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein the detailed billing contact information comprises an encrypted Uniform ~~Respire~~-Resource Locator (URL) that authenticates ~~the an~~ identity of ~~the billable entity one~~ accessing information addressable by the Uniform Resource Locator.
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further ~~comprising~~, comprising:
prior to ~~step (b)~~ said requesting the summary billing information, providing software to the supplier of the summary billing information;
wherein on the supplier the software, that in response to a request for said requesting the summary billing information in step (b), directs causes the supplier to transmit over a communications network the summary billing information in step (c) over the communications network.
11. (Currently Amended) ~~A computerized~~ The method of claim 1, wherein providing billing information, comprising:
(a) receiving, over a communications network, a request for at least summary billing information automatically generated by the billing portal in response to an action by a billable entity associated with the billing portal;
(b) requesting, over the communications network in response to step (a), at least the summary billing information from a supplier of the summary billing information;

~~(e) receiving, over the communications network, at least the summary billing information is received from the supplier of the summary billing information in ~~at least~~ a first one of a plurality of different data formats; and the method further comprises:~~

~~translating the summary billing information from the first data format one of a plurality of different data formats into a predetermined data format; and~~

~~(d) transmitting, over the communications network to the billing portal, at least the summary billing information in the predetermined data format and detailed billing contact information for allowing the billable entity to access detailed billing information from a supplier of the detailed billing information.~~

12-24. (Canceled)

25. (New) A machine-readable medium storing instructions which when executed perform a method of providing billing information, the method comprising:
- receiving, over a communications network, a request for summary billing information, the request being automatically generated by a billing portal in response to an action by a billable entity associated with the billing portal;
- requesting, over the communications network and in response to said receiving the request for the summary billing information, the summary billing information from a supplier of the summary billing information;
- receiving, over the communications network, the summary billing information from the supplier of the summary billing information; and
- transmitting, over the communications network to the billing portal, the summary billing information and detailed billing contact information, the detailed

billing contact information to be usable by the billable entity to access detailed billing information from a supplier of the detailed billing information.

26. (New) The medium of claim 25, wherein the method further comprises:
prior to said receiving the request for the summary billing information, providing software to the billing portal;
wherein on the billing portal the software, in response to the action by the billable entity associated with the billing portal, exclusively causes the billing portal to transmit the request for the summary billing information and to receive the summary billing information and the detailed billing contact information.
27. (New) The medium of claim 25, wherein the detailed billing contact information comprises at least one of:
a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) that directs access to the detailed billing information located on the Internet; and
an encrypted Uniform Resource Locator (URL) that authenticates an identity of one accessing information addressable by the Uniform Resource Locator.
28. (New) The medium of claim 25, wherein the method further comprises:
prior to said requesting the summary billing information, providing software to the supplier of the summary billing information;
wherein on the supplier the software, in response to said requesting the summary billing information, causes the supplier to transmit the summary billing information over the communications network.

29. (New) The medium of claim 25, wherein the summary billing information is received from the supplier of the summary billing information in a first one of a plurality of different data formats; and the method further comprises:
translating the summary billing information from the first one of a plurality of different data formats into a predetermined data format.
30. (New) A data processing system, comprising:
means for receiving, over a communications network, a request for summary billing information, the request being automatically generated by a billing portal in response to an action by a billable entity associated with the billing portal;
means for requesting, over the communications network and in response to receiving the request for the summary billing information, the summary billing information from a supplier of the summary billing information;
means for receiving, over the communications network, the summary billing information from the supplier of the summary billing information; and
means for transmitting, over the communications network to the billing portal, the summary billing information and detailed billing contact information, the detailed billing contact information to be usable by the billable entity to access detailed billing information from a supplier of the detailed billing information.
31. (New) The data processing system of claim 30, further comprising:
means for, prior to receiving the request for the summary billing information, providing first software to the billing portal; and
means for, prior to requesting the summary billing information, providing second software to the supplier of the summary billing information;

wherein on the billing portal the first software, in response to the action by the billable entity associated with the billing portal, exclusively causes the billing portal to transmit the request for the summary billing information and to receive the summary billing information and the detailed billing contact information; and

wherein on the supplier the second software, in response to said means for requesting the summary billing information, causes the supplier to transmit the summary billing information over the communications network.

32. (New) The data processing system of claim 30, wherein the detailed billing contact information comprises at least one of:
- a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) that directs access to the detailed billing information located on the Internet; and
 - an encrypted Uniform Resource Locator (URL) that authenticates an identity of one accessing information addressable by the Uniform Resource Locator.
33. (New) The data processing system of claim 30, wherein the summary billing information is received from the supplier of the summary billing information in a first one of a plurality of different data formats; and the system further comprises: means for translating the summary billing information from the first one of a plurality of different data formats into a predetermined data format.